



UPCOMING HOME GAMES:

PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

Week of Dec. 19, 2018

MISSISSAUGA | BRAMPTON | CALEDON



Santa pays special visit to Peel hospitals

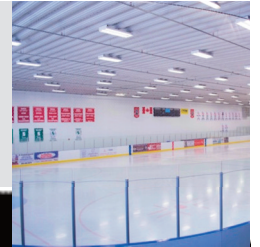
A special visitor made the rounds at Brampton Civic Hospital last week, bringing good tidings to parents and children alike! Santa's visit, held in conjunction with Bramalea City Centre, is part of a campaign where 50 per cent of the proceeds from the mall's annual Santa Photo Campaign will support the purchase of needed equipment and beds in the hospital. Santa will be appearing at Bramalea City Centre through this Sunday, Dec. 23 for photo opportunities. (Photo Courtesy of William Osler Health Centre)

Look for news and business content tomorrow!



► NEWS Page 3-8

Caledon Launches Sports Hall of Fame Tonight



► SPORTS Page 8

Tough week for Brampton Bombers and Admirals



► SPORTS Page 9

Brampton announces holiday schedule, festivities



► LIFESTYLE Page 10

CACD closes out season with year-end celebration



► LIFESTYLE Page 11

SAUGA 960 AM
NEWS-TALK



SAUGA 960 AM
NEWS-TALK

Please join us...

Mayor Allan Thompson invites you to the

15th annual
WinterFest
Celebration

Sunday, January 6, 2019 | 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Mayfield Recreation Complex

**Please join us as we celebrate the season with an
afternoon of fun for all ages: free skating, free swimming,
activities and complimentary refreshments.**

For more information, please call: 905.584.2272 x.7323

Brampton mainstreet LRT back on as council convenes

by Alex Gregory

A previously-scrapped plan to build a light rapid transit (LRT) system on Brampton's mainstreet corridor has been resuscitated, as city council voted unanimously to restart, complete with an underground tunnel in the downtown core.

The motion was made during last week's council meeting, pushed by Regional Councillor Gurpreet Dhillon, which aims to restart the mainstreet LRT project and extending it to Mayfield Road, while simultaneously replacing planned LRT routes on McLaughlin and Kennedy with a bus rapid transit (BRT) system.

The mainstreet LRT project is appealing because it's a "shovel-ready" project that's ready to go once funding is secured, said Wards 1&5 councillor Rowena Santos.

"Right now, we've got nothing," Santos told the

packed crowd in Council chambers. "The only thing we've got right now to being shovel ready is the LRT."

The LRT project has had a contentious and divisive past, with previous efforts led during former Mayor Linda Jeffrey's reign failing due to political division.

The 2015 plan to build the downtown LRT with funding from the province, as part of a wider initiative to link Brampton GO to Port Credit GO via a seamless line failed, despite record civic engagement and public debates on the matter.

Council heard loud and clear from residents that they didn't want to see more infighting and political division, said Mayor Patrick Brown.

"They were saying, 'We don't want you fighting like schoolchildren... we want you to fight together.'" said

Brown, noting that all of the councillors want to move the city forward and present modern transit solutions.

"I'm grateful that we have a city council that was reasonable, that was willing to pause and look at things from different perspectives."

Brown further indicated that the decision to place a portion of the track underground on Main Street satisfied all of the councillors, as it protects heritage elements in the downtown core.

Dhillon's motion will go to a final vote this morning.



Brampton Reimagined plan faces crucial vote

The Downtown Brampton Reimagined project, which aimed to revitalize the city's downtown core and tie into a broader infrastructure replacement plan initiated by the Region of Peel, may be on the chopping block.

The city's director of capital works, Jayne Holmes, will make a recommendation at this morning's council meeting that the project be canceled due to higher-than-normal tenders and already-developed sites in the target area, local publication Brampton Focus revealed Tuesday.

The project, which was originally approved last May with a \$28.9 million budget, was expected to begin earlier this year before it was announced that work would not start until later in the year.

The motion requests that the infrastructure replace-

ment in the downtown core be postponed until a strategic framework for designing and implementing the projects has been developed.

The plan has received concerns from many groups, including businesses who have raised issues with the digging up of streets over a two-year period and escalating costs related to various developments.

The motion suggests three options for Council to pursue, including one that would move the project forward and begin work next spring without fully understanding the costs, a second option that would focus on the Region's required infrastructure upgrades while pausing the streetscape work, and a third option would stop both options until Council makes a later decision.

Eight Peel residents arrested in wide-ranging drug crackdown

Ontario Provincial Police announced Tuesday morning that it has broken an illegal gun trafficking ring in the Greater Toronto Area, with eight people in Peel, including a Brampton man and seven Mississauga residents, among the arrests.

23 individuals in total were arrested as a result of the eight-month long investigation, which netted 14 handguns, body armor, silencers, grenades, more than 1.2 kilograms of cocaine and \$85,000, in addition to other seized weapons and drugs.

The investigation was complex and time-consuming, but helped break an organized crime network that had "multiple cells" within the province, OPP Deputy Commissioner Rick Barnum told reporters in Vaughan Tuesday.

"Because of this work, our

communities are safer today," Barnum said, noting that the individuals charged in the investigation were linked to street gangs, human trafficking and drug manufacturing and distribution elements.

The investigation, dubbed Project Renner, was initiated earlier this past April by the OPP's Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau, and included cross-jurisdictional support from multiple police agencies in Peel, Halton, Durham, Hamilton and Niagara, among others.

39 police raids were conducted at sites across the GTA, Barnum said, with more than 400 police officers from several police forces involved in the operation.

The Mississauga residents arrested in the investigation include 35 year-old Acesia Ali, 21 year-old Lamar An-

draws, 23 year-old Tajahan Kelly, 53 year-old Dwayne MacKenzie, 34 year-old Joe-vannie Peart, 25 year-old Jamar Quintyne and 26 year-old Jonathan Sinclair.

20 year-old Akil Jones, of Brampton, was also arrested as a result of the investigation.

In total, more than 150 charges were laid against the arrested individuals, who also lived in Hamilton, Milton, Rockwood, Smithwood and Toronto.

By taking down the criminal operation, police prevented illegal guns from killing more even people in communities throughout the Greater Toronto and Golden Horseshoe areas, Barnum said.

The accused persons are being held in custody and are expected to appear at Ontario Courts of Justice in the near future.



Drug paraphernalia seized during the Project Renner investigation was displayed by the OPP during a news conference on Dec. 11, 2018. (Photo Courtesy of Ontario Provincial Police)

SAUGA 960 AM
NEWS-TALK



SAUGA 960 AM
NEWS-TALK

Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

STAY IN TOUCH

PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

264 Lakeshore Rd. E.
Mississauga, Ontario
L5G 1K3

Direct: 905-990-0932

www.peeldailynews.com

PUBLISHER

Peter Whitaker
publisher@peeldailynews.com

VP OPERATIONS

Carol Ann Nichols
carol@peeldailynews.com

NEWS/INFO DESK

newsdesk@peeldailynews.com

EDITOR'S DESK:

editor@peeldailynews.com
features@peeldailynews.com
sports@peeldailynews.com

PRODUCTION

creative@peeldailynews.com

PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

MANAGING EDITOR

Marco Patrone

DIGITAL MEDIA/WRITER

Alex Gregory
Vernon Baney

SPORTS

CONTRIBUTORS
Dave Robinson
Benedict Rhodes
Brendan Lang
Trent Blackwell

SENIOR ACCOUNT

MANAGER
Catherine Stryker

LIFESTYLE EDITOR

Alex Gregory

CONTRIBUTORS

Trent Blackwell
Kelsey Lusk
Heather Raithby

PEEL
WEEKLY
NEWS
Digital Newspaper

Driver-Martin celebrated as “leader” with “heart of gold”

Continued from Pg 1

Clarkson Secondary School principal Mary Zammit said that the staff and teachers have dedicated support and guidance resources to help students deal with what happened, noting that “our thoughts are with the family and those impacted at this difficult time.”

While police have not revealed whether there was a motive or if Driver-Martin and the Mahabir brothers knew each other, media representatives from Peel Police said they are treating the case as an isolated incident.

Both Nicholas and Mark Mahabir appeared in Brampton court over the weekend before being remanded into custody.

Mark Mahabir’s lawyer, David Midanik, said in a scrum afterwards that his client was not guilty and that “a vigorous defence will be mounted.”

Online reaction ranged from shock to disbelief, with friends and family saying the experience has profoundly impacted them.

“This young man was located (mere steps from my backyard),” said Jaydy Godin in an online post. “Our community will never forget his face and this senseless tragedy.”

An online fundraiser has been set up on GoFundMe (gofundme.com/5j3j33-riley), which will help support the family’s funeral costs.

In a post, Tierra Santa said that no one can ever be prepared for the loss of a family member.

“Knowing you will never be able to see, speak to, hear from or hold your child again is unimaginable,” said Santa. “No amount of money can ease the pain this family is feeling, but any amount of monetary support would help to ease some of the financial stress.”



“Challenging times” as Iannicca appointed to Peel chair

by Alex Gregory

Citing “challenging times” in regards to Peel Region’s pressing issues, former Ward 7 Councillor Nando Iannicca was appointed as Regional Chair for the 2018-22, capping off months of speculation and uncertainty.

The election, held last week at the Region of Peel’s Council Chambers, saw only two names step forward in a bid to take the role of chair - Iannicca, who stepped away from his career as a Mississauga councillor earlier this year, and former provincial finance minister Charles Sousa, who was nominated by Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown.

While there had been speculation as to several Brampton candidates, including former councillors Elaine Moore and Gael Miles and ousted Mayor Linda Jeffrey, the field quickly narrowed to a two-man race.

“We need who can steer the ship... and hit the ground running,” said Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, who put forward the nomination for Iannicca.

Several other councillors echoed her sentiments, including Wards 3&4’s Martin Medeiros, who spoke of Iannicca’s work on committees that impact residents daily, including the latter’s role as

board chair at Credit Valley Conservation.

“He has been a mentor figure to me,” said Medeiros. That mentorship is what I look for in a chair.”

Iannicca is the fifth Regional Chair in the Region’s 44-year history, succeeding Frank Dale. He will take the reins of the region, which provides essential services for more than 1.4 million residents in the three municipalities.

In his inaugural address, Iannicca said that the region is a “special institution” that is well-positioned for the future, but will need to make major decisions on growing initiatives including transit and affordable housing.

“I look forward to working together with Regional Council to ensure that we respond to the needs of Peel region in these challenging times,” he said.

Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson, who affirmed Iannicca’s endorsement with a motion for a unanimous vote, said afterwards that it was a “new day in Peel”, and that the region will be heading for some tough times, requiring all councillors and Mayors to work together to solve major problems affecting residents.



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

Parents, protect your children this season

by Doris Cooper

I recently received the worst news any grandmother could ever hear.

My granddaughter was walking down the street recently in Hamilton when a man came up to them and attempted to scoop up my three year-old great-granddaughter.

My granddaughter had a hold of her daughter's hand and a shopping cart in the other hand.

Luckily, my granddaughter was able to free up her daughter by shoving the man away. She grabbed her

daughter and her cart and fled the area.

A passerby also stopped to assist her, so the man decided to not follow them. However, he then went into a nearby mall and grabbed a 15 year-old girl.

She was able to get away - luckily for her, there was a security guard nearby. They arrested the man and he is currently in jail awaiting sentencing again for similar charges. Clearly the help he received in the previous imprisonment didn't work!

This is scary - and hap-

pening more and more!

I notice lately that every time I'm in the mall, there are several young children just running around without parents with them.

Their caretakers are somewhere else, either socializing or shopping, and not paying attention to their children! We went into the mall behind a family recently, and watched as the children took off running when they entered the mall.

The children were running the length of 10-15 stores ahead of their par-

ents. If someone should have grabbed their children, they would be gone before the parents could react!

With so many abductions or even attempted ones happening so frequently, it is important for parents to be aware of where exactly their children are.

If there is a lot of shopping to do, it is wise to hire a babysitter and leave the children home. With the coming Christmas season, the malls are going to be extremely busy. The children could be gone in a split-second.

Lately, there was been an increase in human trafficking incidents in our area of the country. It doesn't matter what age, male/female, rich or poor or even nationality you are. It doesn't matter!

You don't know if they are going to sold in "slavery", sexually abused or worse! The statistics are staggering.

If a child has been taken, you don't know what will be done to them. When it's reported to the news, the parents are devastated, and society tends to sympathize with them regardless of the lack of information given.

It is never reported that the children were just running around unattended with their parents so far away from them. The parents who are close enough to try to protect their children and can't get them back, are the parents I would sympathize with.

A long time ago, when my oldest daughter was growing up, she was sleeping over at her friend's house. They decided to go out in a unfavourable area of the city we were living in.

They didn't realize that if abducted, the person could have taken them anywhere. There was so many entrances to the highway in any direction! They couldn't understand why I was so upset with them.

I took my daughter to a nearby police station and we talked to an officer from the Children's department.

My daughter looked up at what she thought was appropriate decoration on the walls for this department. The wall was lined with photos of children.

The officer told her they weren't decorations, but photos of missing children in this city. She was shocked to realize there was that

many missing children!

We need changes to what inmates receive in the way of "assistance" while incarcerated for their crime. I know a case where the person committed the same sexual crime four times and the last sentence was only two years!

In that case, the man only got six months and then probation. It seems that prison time isn't enough for these people (again, my opinion only). They get a roof over their head, three meals a day along with clothes to wear. They don't care what damage they have done to their victims.

My granddaughter's worse fear came true that day. She was conscious of her surroundings and her hidden power (Mama Bear) came into play with this man. She was lucky to push him away to save her daughter!

We must keep in mind when we go into crowded malls (or anywhere) that we never know who might be there, until it is too late.

Please keep your children near you and safe. You can better protect your children that way.



Keep up to date with the Real Estate market - upload the new Keller Williams mobile app today.

<https://app.kw.com/KW2P776M5/>



Theresa Baird
THERESA BAIRD
Broker
because I live here.
647.298.0997
e: tbaird@tbaird.com • tbaird.com



Keller Williams
Realty Solutions
Brokerage Independently Owned and Operated



METRO STARS™

M I S S I S S A U G A

MASL PROFESSIONAL ARENA SOCCER

HOLIDAY 4-pack



VS



MetroStars

Harrisburg
Heat

Sunday Dec 30th.
3:05 pm



VS



MetroStars

Baltimore
Blast

Thursday Jan 3rd.
7:35 pm



VS



MetroStars

Milwaukee
Wave

Saturday Jan 5th.
3:05 pm



VS



MetroStars

Utica City
FC

Friday Jan 11th.
7:35 pm

HOLIDAY PACK

(Includes all 4 games)
PLUS A METROSTARS SCARF

www.mississaugametrostars.ca/group-ticket-packages

* Shown pricing includes all four games

GROUP TICKETS

10 – 24
TICKETS

25 - 49
TICKETS

50 - 99
TICKETS

100+
TICKETS

RED

\$ 61

\$ 57

\$ 53

\$ 49

GOLD

\$ 79

\$ 73

\$ 67

\$ 61

PLATINUM

\$ 97

\$ 87

\$ 76

\$ 67



Games played at:
paramount
FINE FOODS
CENTRE

CALL FOR TICKETS
1-866-56-STAR
7 8 2 7 7



SAUGAMETROSTARS

www.mississaugametrostars.ca

Don't Worry About Your Financial Future. With Sell 'n STAY™ You're in Control of Your Options.



As time goes on and the cost of living continues to increase, it is easy to become worried about how to make ends meet.

There are many options that are not pet-friendly. Sell 'n STAY™ not only allows you to keep your furry friends, but to continue to live in the home that both you and your pets are familiar with.

Sell 'n STAY™ which is a sale and lease back program offers a practical and reliable way to help you face an uncertain future with confidence. It can change your life and give you the fresh start you deserve.

Before you consider a reverse mortgage, call me at 647-298-0997 to discuss this great opportunity.



THERESA BAIRD

647.298.0997
e: tbaird@tbaird.com • tbaird.com



Keller Williams
Realty Solutions



Trio of Toronto crooks arrested after weapons seized in Mississauga

Three men and one woman are under arrest after a pair of weapon seizures within the span of an hour.

12 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau made the announcement Tuesday evening in relation to a robbery that occurred the day before.

Police responded to the Mid-Way Boulevard and Invader Crescent area around 2:30 a.m. after receiving reports of a robbery with a firearm.

Arriving on the scene, officers investigated a vehicle

leaving the area and found the occupants in possession of various drugs and a .45 caliber handgun.

As a result, three Toronto residents face numerous firearms and drug related charges, including 19 year-old Atrooba Mughal, 25 year-old Ashley Waldriff and 22 year-old Patrick-Adrian Agpoon.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the above individuals were not responsible for the robbery.

Based on information received at the incident location, officers arrested

another man for the robbery.

Following the arrest, a SigSauer 9mm handgun was recovered. As a result, 32 year-old Ian Chambers, of Mississauga, was charged with numerous firearms and robbery offences.

The accused individuals appeared in Brampton court Tuesday morning for a bail hearing.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call investigators at the 12 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 1233.



Police appeal for help after shooting

Investigators from the Peel Regional Police 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau are appealing for witnesses in relation to a shooting that occurred in the City of Brampton.

On Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2018 at approximately 4:30 p.m., the victim, a 27 year-old

man from Brampton, was at a residence in the area of Castlehill Road and Kirk Drive in Brampton.

At this time, two unknown suspects entered and shot the victim numerous times. The victim was transported to a trauma centre with serious injuries.

Investigators are appealing for witnesses, surveillance video, or anyone who may have information concerning this investigation to call investigators at the 22 Division Criminal Investigation Bureau at (905) 453-2121, ext. 2233.



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

“Cold” controversy a time for reflection

by Bruce Marshall

Have you heard about the Baby It's Cold Outside controversy?

A Christmas music station in the U.S. got a complaint from a listener about the song. The listener thought it was a little “rapey” for the #MeToo era.

There has been a lot of hand wringing and pearl clutching about this. Some people think of it as trying to erase the past. Which it may be.

Truthfully, on the part of the radio station – this is a brilliant stunt. They could have got the complaint – dropped the song – and not said anything to anyone.

For the radio station, sending out the press release about this was a masterstroke of genius.

We talked about this issue on Friday on Newstalk Sauga 960AM. My dear friend Jodi Decker and I were co-hosting

with Tashia Antoine, a Seneca radio student. Both ladies agreed that the song was perhaps a little too much – given that this attention has been paid to the lyrics.

When I hear it myself, I think, “yeah, that's a little inappropriate, maybe.” Maybe as inappropriate as Al Jolson singing in black-face was once realized to be. (Jolson was an early film star who performed in “black-

face.” A white guy wearing rather garish black makeup.) But it took some way to realize how inappropriate it was.

Times change. What was acceptable before – is no longer acceptable – like performing in black-face.

For some, the times change too quickly. They can't keep up. And they can't see why a song that has been around forever is a problem now.

But what we're trying to build is an inclusive society. And even if this one barely significant song has to go – we're better off for it.

(And the “argument” that comes up about hip-hop music having nasty lyrics is spurious. You know what you're getting when you listen to hip-hop. If you're listening to Christmas music, you don't want the lyrics to suddenly make you feel creepy.)

I applaud the people who have spoken out about this. I'm glad that they finally feel that society has evolved to the point where they can express their discomfort.

Even if some feel that we're “coddling” some people – let's consider what may have happened to them that the lyrics of a Christmas song are threatening to them! What kind of horror do you have to have endured to make this an emotional issue for you?

No – they don't have to

“buck up,” nor do they have to have “not such a thin skin.” I know people who have been through assaults – you carry that stuff with you your whole life! And I'm not going to be the one to tell them that they have to “get over” something they feel is threatening.

I had a conversation with a dear friend the other day on this very topic. I told her that I thought the best world we could live in would be one where everyone is included – and nobody feels like an outsider.

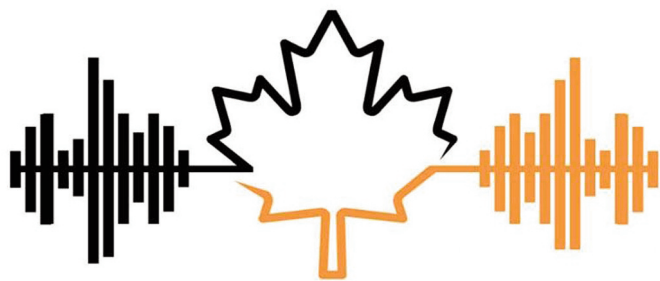
That's what this issue over a Christmas song and so many of these other issues that are bubbling to the surface is all about. If anyone has felt like an outsider or vulnerable – I think we need to cut that crap out.

Everyone belongs. And if we have to sacrifice one Christmas song to do it – I think we're better with more people feeling included and a few less Christmas songs.



MBOT TV Weekly Recap





NEWS **TALK** SAUGA 960 AM

www.Sauga960am.ca

TUNE US IN TODAY

***Exciting OHL Hockey
this week's games
Friday Pre-game 6:45
Game time 7:00 pm***

***Sunday Pre-game 1:45
Game time 2:00 pm***

***On the Radio
sauga960AM***

***Streaming
sauga960am.ca***



**TICKETS
AS LOW AS
\$18**



paramount
FINE FOODS
CENTRE

FOLLOW US —
OHLSTEELHEADS



UPCOMING HOME GAMES

DECEMBER

14

VS.
SSM
7:00 PM



DECEMBER

16

VS.
SUDBURY
2:00 PM



CALL: 905-502-7788

Peel Matters - Counsel for new councils

by Catherine Soplet

On Dec. 6 at Peel Regional Council, nearly 150 people cozily tucked into Council chambers to take in the appointment of the next 2018-22 Chair.

Rumours of numerous candidates soon materialized as only two nominations: Nando Iannicca, the 30-year Mississauga Ward 7 Councillor and former Ontario finance minister Charles Sousa, who served 11 years as a MPP for Mississauga South.

Anticipation for proceed-

ings was muted and calm, compared to the 2014 run-off to replace the 23-year term of outgoing Emil Kolb.

In that year, the run-off selection of Councillor Frank Dale amongst eight contending nominees took place in a packed room of 500 people at Mississauga Convention Centre.

In surveying the relative calm of 2018, the opening lines from A Tale of Two Cities came tapped a spoken-word rhythm to match a cho-

reography of handshakes and hobnobbing, ahead of proceedings.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times - it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness - it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity - it was the season of light. ...". Author Charles Dickens described conditions at the onset of The French Revolution.

More than 200 years later, it seems Dickens' words aptly

describe the entire world's political experience over the last 12 months. In Ontario, in the Region of Peel, we saw our fair share.

Beginning in January, last year's candidates nominated under Patrick Brown's leadership of the PC Party of Ontario in March had to pick a new leader during a fractious race. Then in May, they ran an election campaign under the former leader's antithesis, Rob Ford. In Mississauga and Brampton, PC candidates were swapped out at the last minute.

On the day after the June 7 election, novice PC and NDP candidates prevailed in a clean sweep of Peel Region's incumbent and long-serving Liberal MPPs.

Over the summer, some failed provincial candidates joined the ranks of already-committed municipal and school board candidates in a bid for election on Oct. 22.

Races were hotly contested in wards where legacy incumbents stepped away from their political posts, which led to some first-time elected councillors being tapped for succession.

The appetite for wholesale change even took out 20-year politician Linda Jeffrey as a

one-term Brampton Mayor. Jeffrey lost a tight race to newly-emigrated candidate Patrick Brown.

Six weeks later on Dec. 6, no sooner has momentum of municipal elections seemed to change everything, when the newly-inaugurated Mayors of Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon called for appointment of the Peel Region Chair who could return to providing solid, predictable and productive services, that were prudently delivered.

Peel Region, after all, is the home to former Premier William G. Davis, whose "Bland is Best" brand of government held tenure during Ontario's longest period of sustained growth.

Mayoral nominators of the next Peel Chair each pointed to uncertain times for Peel Region as the Ontario government begins its review of regional governance.

The Ontario government review coincides with a mandate to create a Community Safety and Well Being Plan by Jan. 2021, likely on reduced budgets in spring 2019, at the same time as residents are experiencing higher needs for income, housing, social services and healthcare.

Such societal preconditions

sparked the French Revolution. Such preconditions also spurred the creation of the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, a document which later informed the encoding the 1948 United Nations - Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

One made-in-Peel solution which aligns with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the 2007 Peel Youth Charter.

In 2007, the Charter was unanimously endorsed by Peel Region and municipal councils, public and separate school boards; Peel and Ontario policing; and agency partners in the not-for-profit sector.

To recognize its 10-year anniversary in 2017, renewed endorsements were unanimously endorsed. On May 10, a signing ceremony sealed Peel leadership commitments for best efforts of local governments and agency partners to ensure safety, health, education and jobs for all youth in Peel.

Bland works best. Incumbents and newly-elected can be clear on how to provide solid, predictable and productive services, prudently delivered.



*It's not too late...
to let it snow!*

Save yourself from months in the deep freeze by spending it in Florida! If you're looking to purchase anywhere in the Sunshine State, I'm your connection.

Give me a call at **647-298-0997** and let's discuss your options.

Let it snow, you'll be basking in the sun anyways...



Theresa Baird
THERESA BAIRD
Broker

because **I live here.**

647.298.0997

e: tbaird@tbaird.com • tbaird.com

kw Keller Williams
Realty Solutions
Brokerage Independently Owned and Operated



BUSINESS

EllisDon and Peel school board pick up employer awards

The region's board of education and a Mississauga developer were among the recipients named in a prestigious employer list announced last week.

EllisDon and the Peel District School Board were named as two of the recipients on the 13th annual list of Greater Toronto's Top Employers, which were revealed on Dec. 7.

Employers throughout the Greater Toronto Area were evaluated by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers to determine which of them within the GTA are leading their industries in offering exceptional workplaces for their employees.

The top organizations were recognized for attracting talent outside of their industries, particularly focused in technology, while

offering a mixture of traditional benefits and flexible options that cater to different individuals.

In a statement, EllisDon senior vice-president Andrew Anderson said the company was honored to be recognized.

"It is a true testament to our employee-centered organization and our belief that success starts at the core," Anderson said. "We constantly strive to provide our employees with a collaborative working environment that provides them flexibility and freedom to drive their entrepreneurial spirit and innovative thinking, ultimately helping to grow and propel their careers forward."

Similarly, PDSB education director Peter Joshua said the award was a celebration of the community and the

16,000 staff who currently serve at schools in the region.

"As the Peel region's largest employer, our goal remains on attracting highly qualified, diverse staff who are committed to excellence, have a passion for innovation and most importantly, to support student success... this recognition is an important benchmark in our ongoing work to achieve that goal," said Joshua.

The employers were graded on eight criteria, including their workplace, social attributes, employee benefits, communications, performance management, training and skills development; and community involvement.

The winners were honored at a recognition luncheon on Dec. 7 in Toronto.



Caledon announces green awards for clean energy

The Town of Caledon recently received multiple environmental leadership awards for municipal and corporate achievements in the areas of energy conservation, waste diversion and environmental performance.

"Town Staff continue to work collaboratively across departments to reduce our corporate energy consumption and improve our municipality's environmental performance," Mayor Allan Thompson said in a statement Friday.

"Caledon has a long-standing municipal legacy of environmental leadership, and these recent awards and recognition affirm that the Town continues to be on the right path, doing what's right for the environment."

This year, the Town received multiple awards and formal recognition for its environmental efforts over the past two years, including the Don Harrison Energy Champion Award, awarded to Recreation Coordinators Cam Coulter and Phil Lankhof for energy saving projects in building operations through lighting retrofits, ice plant controls, and energy operator training; the Mayor's Megawatt Challenge Award, which was given to the Mayfield Recreation Complex for energy conservation initiatives; the SaveOn Energy - Energy Innovation Award, which recognized the Town's focus on energy retrofit projects establishing an energy revolving fund; the 2018

Partners in Project Green Waste Diversion certificate, for diverting 156 kilograms of clothing and materials from landfills through a staff campaign; and the Partners in Project Green Legacy Leader award, which the Town received for its continuing engagement to build the green economy in Peel Region and the GTA.

Thompson said that the Town will continue to focus on reducing corporate wide greenhouse gases while introducing a new greenhouse gas reduction framework that will inform and prioritize mitigation actions to help further decrease greenhouse gas emissions emitted by the Town from 2019-24.



(L-R) Mayor Allan Thompson; Fuwing Wong (General Manager/Chief Financial Officer); Cristina Guido (Energy & Environment Specialist); Katelyn McFadyen (Energy & Environment Manager); Phil Lankhof (Recreation Coordinator); Mike Galloway (Chief Administrative Officer); Cam Coulter (Recreation Coordinator) (Submitted Photo)

LAKE SHORE
POOLS & HOT TUBS

**Swimming Pool
& Hot Tub Service**
905-891-8818
lakeshorepoolsandtubs.com

Seniors' issues highlighted at Brampton town hall meeting

More than 100 residents turned out for a town hall meeting Saturday in Brampton to hear from some of the country's most prominent advocates and have their concerns addressed.

The event, held at the Chris Gibson Recreation Centre, saw participants hearing from Minister of Seniors Filomena Tassi, Brampton-North MP Ruby Sahota and Brampton-South MP Sonia Sidhu, who answered questions and discussed their strategy for ensuring that the federal government provides proper support to the country's aging population.

"The (government) recognizes the remarkable contribution that Canadian seniors have made to our society and

economy over the years," Sahota told the crowd. "We continue to take measures to ensure seniors can enjoy the fulfilling lives that they very much deserve."

Seniors remain a top priority going forward, she said, and the government is committed to supporting encouraging them to stay active and involved in their communities."

Tassi reinforced that seniors issues are a priority for the government, pointing to income security, accessible housing initiatives and expanded seniors' programs.

Participants also had the opportunity to speak directly with the Minister about several issues, including financing security, seniors' housing and

healthcare needs, consumer protection including fraud, seniors' programming, poverty, protection of workplace

pensions, and how best to move forward with the implementation of national pharmacare.



Input sought on draft Recreation Master Plan

Mississauga is seeking input from residents and stakeholders on several long-range service plans for the Culture, Recreation, Parks & Forestry, Library, and Fire & Emergency Services divisions, which were unveiled at the city's inaugural council meeting last week.

Last year, the City asked the community to share their thoughts on the future of programs and services for these five key areas and received a lot of input and suggestions.

The input was combined with other relevant data, inputs and trends to guide how the City spends its time, resources and funds on community priorities.

Residents and stakeholders can now provide their

feedback before Jan. 4, 2019. Feedback can be provided either online or by attending a Public Information Centre.

The City will review the feedback and revise the plans before presenting the final plans to Council in January 2019.

A public information session for the draft master plans will be held tomorrow evening at Meadowvale Community Centre (6655 Glen Erin Dr.), from 6 -9 p.m. in the Youth/Senior Room.

The city has also launched an online survey at your-say.mississauga.ca/your-future, which residents can visit to view the draft plans and share their feedback online.



Transit and city services key parts of Mississauga budget

by Alex Gregory

A 2.75 per cent residential tax increase for residential properties and 31,000 additional hours of service on MiWay transit are among the highlights of Mississauga's annual budget, which will be presented to residents this morning.

The City presented its official 2019 Business Plan and Budget, detailing some of the area's key priorities - and expenses - as it heads into a new term.

"We are a municipality that certainly... pays a lot of attention to our fiscal condition, and we are in good financial shape," city manager Janice Baker said during a breakfast held just prior to the budget unveiling at the inaugural council meeting for the 2018-22 term.

The city's proposed operating budget will be \$874.2 million dollars, with approximately \$362.5 million of that amount being offset through revenue from development charges and

transit/recreation fees.

Residents living in a detached single-family home will see an additional 2.75 per cent property tax (\$146.32) added to their bill next year, while commercial/industrial businesses will have a 1.67 per cent tax added on to their bottom line.

The city's proposed residential tax increase is in line with current inflation rates, said Baker, pointing to the continuing maintenance of \$9 billion in city-owned infrastructure and costs associated with improvements to essential city services and facilities.

"We believe we deliver value for tax dollars, and certainly we've put a very sharp focus on continuous improvement," she said. "We are committed to delivering value for money."

The city is also proposing a number of major projects and upgrades, including a four-year Public Fire Safety Reserve program worth \$9.4 million, an increase in arts spend-

ing per capita and planned modernization and program efforts in the city's library system, including a redevelopment project associated with Mississauga Central Library that is planned to offer digital tools and infrastructure improvements.

The balance of the operating budget will go towards maintaining city services at their current levels, including transit, roads, emergency services, development charges and park maintenance.

"Our infrastructure is aging, and maintenance costs to repair our roads and bridges are continuing," said Baker. "Repairs cost money."

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is also an area the city is paying particular attention to, with a focus on examining policies and legislation to find a way to incentivize developers to ensure that units made more available to low- and mid-income residents, said Baker.

A number of new and increased fees and charges have also been proposed for next year, including a MiWay Presto fare increase effective May 1, 2019, along with environmental compliance/road occupancy per-

mit fees.

The additional revenue from the new programs and increases will bring in approximately \$2.3 million.

The city will host additional public consultation opportunities going into

the new year, with Budget Committee meetings scheduled for Jan. 14, 15, 21, 22 and 28.

The budget is expected to be approved by Mississauga council on Feb. 6, 2019.



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

Alectra boosts wiring on key Brampton corridor

The region's largest electricity provider announced last week that it has completed a modernization project on one of Brampton's busiest streets.

A \$2.2 million-dollar infrastructure project that runs from Mackay Street North from Bovaird Drive East and North Park Drive and on Howden Boulevard between Dixie Road and Williams Parkway East, was completed last month, according to Alectra Utilities.

The Brampton-based provider's infrastructure project was initiated to replace deteriorated cables and improve electrical serv-

ice reliability in the community.

8.2 kilometres of underground cable were planted during the project, which was supported by eight new above-grade padmounted switching units.

In a statement, the company said it is continuing to invest in local energy grids in order to ensure reliable service and support growth efforts.

Alectra, whose operations office is located on Sandalwood Parkway, serves approximately one million customers across 15 communities in the province.



Brampton automation company rolls out new package project

When Paul Langen started AFA Systems Packaging Automation in Brampton in 2001, he had 60 years of family history in the packaging industry to fall back on. And keeping up with technological trends, he focused his business on packaging automation equipment – serving a global client base with options to automate the packaging of their food, confectionary, pharmaceutical and consumer products.

Since launch, AFA Systems has implemented more than a thousand packaging systems worldwide, with various robotics and automation partners like Codian and Rockwell Automation. The company has consistently looked for innovative solutions, making it part of their DNA.

"I've always known that as a small company, our size advantage is the ability to focus on innovation, solving complex challenges and using our flexibility to find opportuni-

ties," AFA Systems president Paul Langen said during an interview last month.

One of AFA Systems' most recent accomplishments is the rollout of its Infinitus Project, which packages small liquid vials of product at an amazing speed of 1,200 vials per minute.

Designed, developed and tested in Brampton, Langen says it is a testament to the strength of the engineering capacity available in our city and the opportunities that companies like AFA Systems create.

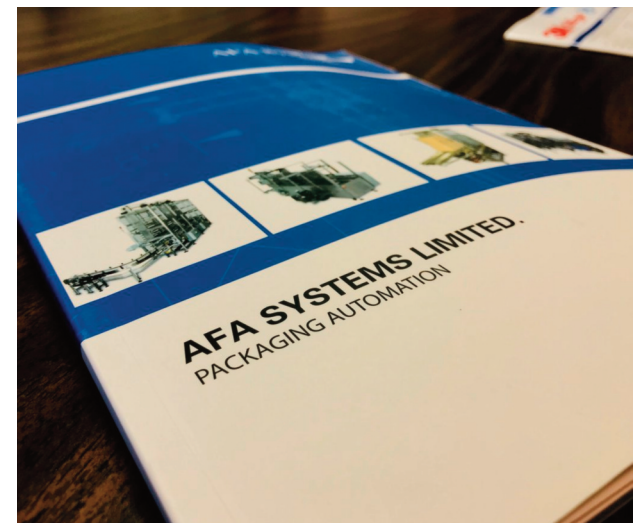
The Infinitus Project is worth an estimated \$2.8 million, and will provide AFA Systems with another successful global implementation, building on its existing reach into the United States, Argentina and other countries, Langen said in a statement.

"The opportunities for Brampton companies to compete globally require thinking bigger, outside of the local

area. There are opportunities, but you have to be open to new experiences and understand the importance of new and diversified markets," says Langen.

This commitment to innovation and international growth are key aspects of government initiatives in-

cluding the federal government's recent approval of an Advanced Manufacturing Supercluster, which has been funded to provide support for transformative businesses and build capacity throughout the advanced manufacturing community, the company said in a statement.



Bolton bar and grill celebrates 30 years of good eats

The savory smell of freshly grilled burger patties, the sound of laughter infused with music, and a cheerful welcome by owner Bruno Bertone lets customers know they have arrived at Cheeks Bar and Grill.

The small family restaurant on King Street in Bolton will be celebrating 30 years of serving residents and visitors in the local area, and they are still going strong. Bertone personally serves the meals, sharing moments with old customers or greeting new faces.

Cheeks is run by both Bruno and his brother, Robert Bertone. Bruno recently spoke to the Town of Caledon about his experiences as a long-time resident and business owner in Bolton:

When did you start this business?

We will be celebrating our 30th anniversary in 2019.

Cheeks Bar and Grill was started by our friends and my brother and I bought it and took over in 1989, and we have been here since then.

We are one of the original

store owners that opened in the Royal Courtyards - when we signed the lease, it wasn't even built yet.

How many staff members do you have?

I currently have 12 part-time employees. We also partner with Humberview's co-op program and offer students the opportunity to learn and enhance their skills. If they want to learn, we are willing to teach them.

You have seen Bolton evolve - what changes have you witnessed?

I have been here for a long time and I have seen many changes around here. Many are good, and some not so much. This town has a lot of potential and can get stronger if new businesses open in the area. Rejuvenating the core would be great for this town.

What is the most popular item on the menu and why?

There are a few items that are quite popular. We are known for our variety of

burgers and wings but customers tell us they also love the pasta we make.

What's homemade on the menu?

Our pasta sauces are homemade and so are the burgers and soups. People can tell when food is fresh and homemade. That's why I have such loyal customers who come here for their favorite dish. Our prices are reasonable and our quality speaks for itself.

Do you source locally?

I go to Garden Foods for meat, vegetables and other items. I have a good relationship with them, and they are known for their good reputation and quality produce.

What's your favorite dish on the menu?

I love the Penne Alla Vodka, which is a combination of sautéed pasta with fresh mushrooms, green onions, bacon, cream, tomato sauce, and vodka. I also like our Spicy Hot Texas Style burger.

Do you use any of the family recipes?

My mother was a cook and my father used to run a restaurant, so the background and love for good food is certainly there. We have a certified chef in the kitchen and everyone here is experienced which has helped us create a good name in the community.

My business partner, Louie Rubino, also works in the kitchen overseeing all the details and processes.

What's great about having a business in Bolton?

I was born and raised in Toronto but I love Bolton. It's a beautiful town. When I first opened the business, I was commuting back and forth from Toronto, but in 1994, I decided to move my family here. My children were raised in Bolton and I believe that was the best decision.

Cheeks Bar and Grill is located at 18 King St. E in Bolton. For more details, visit cheeksbarandgrill.ca.



PEEL WEEKLY NEWS SPORTS

Digital Newspaper



UPCOMING HOME GAMES:

Caledon's Sports Hall of Fame Launches with First Inductee

Caledon is set to open a new hall of fame tonight honoring some of the town's top athletes.

The announcement, made Monday morning, will see the Hall of Fame open with its first inductee, Jerry Callaghan, a leader who has helped create numerous sports organizations benefiting both youths and adults.

"We have seen a number of Caledon athletes over the years who have achieved great success at the local, national and international levels, and we're extremely proud of them all," said Mayor Allan Thompson.

"It's very fitting that we first induct Jerry, as he was someone who exemplified leadership in sports, was widely respected by his peers and known fondly as 'The Commissioner'."

Talks to begin the Hall of Fame began last year when a group of committed residents, including sports en-

thusiasts John Jones and Doug Maskell, began holding meetings to see how they could bring the vision for a sports hall of fame to life.

The Hall of Fame will be a place to recognize, memorialize and celebrate the accomplishments of Caledon athletes and teams, living or passed on, who have excelled at the community, provincial, national and international levels, said Thompson.

Inductees will be classified under one of three categories, including Athlete, Builder and Team.

Callaghan was a leader in organizing various adult and youth sports associations in Bolton, volunteering countless hours. Some of the groups that Jerry helped initiate and was involved in include the Bolton Men's Slow-pitch League, the Bolton Minor Hockey Association, Caledon Canadiens, the Sunday Night Men's Hockey

League, and more.

A retired firefighter, Callaghan also established the Caledon Canadians, a minor-league junior A team. The team became the forerunner for what would eventually become the Brampton Battalion, which served as the city's major hockey team until the 2013-14 hockey season.

The Hall of Fame will be located in the Caledon East Community Complex (6215 Old Church Road), in a temporary area that has been set up for the event.

The space is a placeholder until development is completed on a permanent hall that will be tied to the expansion of the community complex. It is scheduled for completion in 2020-21.

The ceremony will run from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Community Complex.

For more information on the Caledon Sports Hall of Fame, call (905) 584-2272.



Beast Fall To Sixth In North Division

by Benedict Rhodes

The Brampton Beast lost both of their games 4-3 this past weekend, against the Kalamazoo Wings and Newfoundland Growlers.

On Saturday, the Beast were at the Wings Event Center in Michigan to take on the Wings. David Pacan opened the scoring for Brampton 5:26 into the first period, but goals from Justin Taylor and Ben Wilson saw the

Wings take a 2-1 advantage into the 1st intermission.

The Beast tied the game up four minutes into the second period via Erik Bradford, moments before Adrian Carbonara gave the visitors a 3-2 lead. With less than a minute left in the period, Reid Gardiner tied the game up at 3-3.

The game seemed destined for overtime as the clock was

winding down, but with just one minute and three seconds left in the third period, Chris Collins stole the victory for the Wings, finding the back of the net.

The Beast returned home on Sunday to take on the other Canadian ECHL team, the Growlers. Jackson Leef and Pacan scored the only two goals in the first period, and the Beast entered the first intermission up 2-0.

A scoring burst by the Growlers in the second period, however, saw them score 4 goals, taking a 4-2 lead that the Beast were unable to overcome.

The goals were scored by Matt Bradley, Ryan Moore, Scott Pooley and Josh Kestner. Anthony Beauregard pulled one goal back for the Beast early in the third period, but they were unable to tie it up.

Next, the Beast host the Worcester Railers at the CAA Centre tonight and travel to play the Adirondack Thunder this Saturday, Dec. 22, before taking a few days off for Christmas.



MetroStars Get Knocked by Comets

The Mississauga MetroStars started strong but could not withstand a furious second quarter comeback by the Kansas City Comets that carried the visitors to a 12-6 victory over the home side in a Major Arena Soccer League (MASL) match at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre last Thursday.

First quarter goals by Sebastian Lopez and Marco Rodriguez, and a penalty shot, staked the home side to a 2-0 lead but a seven-goal outburst in the second quarter, which included a pair of goals from Ignacio "Nacho" Flores, gave the side from Missouri a commanding 7-3 lead at the half.

The two teams traded goals in the third quarter with MetroStars' midfielder Martinho Dumevski netting his third goal of the season,

nullifying an earlier strike by the Comets Leo Gibson.

Kansas City opened a two-goal lead early in the fourth quarter through Gibson and Flores before Mo Babouli, with his fifth of the season, narrowed the deficit again. Flores and Gibson connected again late in the quarter with the home side playing with a sixth attacker. MetroStars' David

Velastegui's first of the season completed the scoring.

The MetroStars will travel to Orlando to face the Sea Wolves this Saturday, Dec. 22.

The MetroStars' next home match is Sunday, Dec. 30 against the Harrisburg Heat at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre, with kickoff set for 3:05 p.m.



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

Steelheads Take One of Three

by **Brendan Lang**

Mississauga has now been brought back to reality with these past few weeks of the season piling up losses in the process. Things can change in a hurry though, and the Trout looked to make that happen this week.

First up were the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds on Dec. 14. In the first frame the Greyhounds jumped out to a 1-0 lead. They also led 11-9 in the shot column after one. In the second period the Fish responded with a goal from Cole Schwindt to tie the game and a tally from Alan Lyszczyrzyk to give them the lead.

This score held as the game headed into the third stanza of play. In a fast paced third period, the Greyhounds would claw their way back into a tie game as Keeghan Howdeshell would get them a goal. The score deadlocked at two meant the game would need overtime.

The Steelheads' hopes were short lived, as Mac

Hollowell scored the overtime winner giving Sault Ste. Marie the victory.

On Dec. 15, the boys in white-and-blue had their first shot at redemption as they took on the Guelph Storm away from their home building.

After the Steelheads started the period out strong with James Hardie getting his fifth of the year, Guelph would Storm back with two tallies of their own to put them ahead. Cole Schwindt tied the game and the score was stalled at two after one period of play.

The second period was back and forth with many lead changes. First, Ryan McLeod gave the trout the lead. Soon after Guelph scored two of their own once again to put them up by one. Cole Carter tied the game, but it didn't last long as Guelph's Cedric Ralph restored their one goal lead to finish the second.

The only score the third period would witness was a Storm empty net goal to

give them a 6-4 lead and put the game to bed. Mississauga lost their second straight game of the weekend.

Sunday saw Mississauga play their third game in as many days, this time against the Sudbury Wolves. The game started out slow with no scoring in the first frame. The second period is where all the offence for both sides would take place.

The Wolves opened the game scoring on a goal from Blake Murray just over 5 minutes into the period. The Steelheads would strike for three unanswered goals from Michael Little, Alan Lyszczyrzyk and Ryan McLeod putting the score at 3-1.

The offence didn't show up in the third for either side, resulting in a 3-1 Steelheads win.

The Steelheads will now look to get rested up as their next contest won't come until after the holidays.

Tough week for Bombers and Admirals

The Junior 'A' Admirals, with a growing list on the injured reserve, have lost four in a row which included a 4-0 setback to the Oakville Blades and a 4-1 loss to the Buffalo Junior Sabres.

Maxwell Steeves, who was shown the door late in Saturday's game for fighting, will miss Wednesday's rematch with the Sabres in Buffalo.

The Admirals have scored 14 goals in six games this month, averaging 2.33 goals per game.

It's also been a tough stretch for the Junior 'B' squad as well The Bombers. A 7-0 loss to the Listowel Cyclones and a 5-1 setback to the Stratford Warriors; the Bombers has lost their last three games.

Brandan Fisher, who was handed 22 minutes in penalties in Friday's road game in Listowel, was handed a two game suspension by the league. He's eligible to return Friday at home versus the Elmira Sugar Kings.

The Bombers, in five games this month, have scored 11 goals (2.20 goals/game).

In good news for the Bombers, Andrew Reynolds, Luka Profaca and Tyler Bortkiewicz were selected to represent Brampton at the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League Top Prospects event on Thursday, Dec. 27th in Waterloo.

Luka and Tyler will skate at 12 p.m., while Andrew will follow at 3 p.m.



December 22-23 Celebration Square



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

Choosing the perfect gift this holiday season

by Elizabeth Banfalvi

This time of year, we always want to buy the perfect gift.

The media encourages us with so many wonderful gift suggestions that we should all want or plan to buy for whoever is on our gift list. But do they really know what the perfect gift is?

Walmart has a commercial about a stuffed bear - and what a beautiful thought. It is about a bear who is left on the shelf after the others have been cleared. Nobody seems to want him. So, he plays with the other toys. Suddenly, a father sees him, smiles and takes him and the bear is so happy.

On Christmas day, the young daughter opens him up and we watch her hugging the bear, but also the bear hugging her. Happiness and loving are obvious and that is the intent of the commercial.

Another memory is the song "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing (In Perfect Harmony)" originally written in 1971 as a Coke commercial and then several years later was rewritten to be a popular Christmas song.

Commercials can be amazing, but when they bring joy, they go to another level. Like the Hershey's Kisses little bits

of chocolate playing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" - so simple and festive. Another one is M&M's meet Santa Claus.

None of these commercials are made for you to go out to spend money, but they touch the heartstrings and that is the best.

So, have you finished your Christmas shopping? That is the favourite question nowadays. It seems like it is getting more difficult to fill everyone's needs but when we think about it, the season does that effectively by being what it is.

It isn't just about the presents but the feeling of being together. The smiles, songs, decorations, get-togethers, cookies, traditions, are what make it special.

Talk about the cookies and baked goods - the Christmas cake my mother used to start making in October with the fruits and then the beginning of December into the oven it went. It would then be wrapped and stored for the big day!

Gingerbreads, shortcake and so many more cookies celebrate the event. Every nationality and heritage have their own variation.

In my Hungarian heritage, we have kifli and kalach with a nut filling because I never learned how to make the poppy seed filling.

The tastes and enjoyment of simple baked goods couldn't be better. Even Santa enjoys cookies left for him.

The turkey wasn't always the preferred meal. Turkeys originated in Mexico. The American Indians hunted wild turkey for its sweet, juicy meat as early as 1000AD.

Turkeys are believed to have first been brought to Britain in 1526 by Yorkshireman William Strickland - he acquired six birds from American Indian traders on his travels and sold them for tuppence each in Bristol. Turkey was a luxury right up until the 1950's, when they became more accessible and affordable for everyone.

Cranberry sauce was first offered to consumers in North America in 1912 Hanson, Massachusetts. Canned cranberry sauce appeared on the market in 1941, allowing the product to be sold year-round.

The traditions of this season are numerous. The custom of giving and receiving presents at Christmas, was thought to remind us of the presents

given to Jesus by the Wise Men: Frankincense, Gold and Myrrh.

Presents are left in different places. In most of Europe, the presents are left in shoes or boots put out by children. In Italy, UK and USA presents are left in stockings, often left hanging by a fire place. The custom of hanging stockings comes from the story of St.

Nicholas circa 1200 to 1500.

In many countries, presents for friends and family are left under the Christmas Tree. There are different traditions on when gifts are opened as in Christmas day morning with all the family together.

So many traditions are routed from many hundreds of years ago. Let's remember to incorporate them into our

celebrations.

The perfect gift is what all of this is about. After the gifts are all opened and enjoyed; the wrappings gathered in a bag; and the dinner eaten, what is left? It is taking the time to share, treasure and enjoy. There is nothing more perfect than that.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Brampton announces holiday schedule and festivities

During the Christmas holidays, many city offices in Brampton will remain closed, beginning from this coming Monday, Dec. 24 at noon and continuing through Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

While some services, including Fire and Emergency and by-law enforcement, will remain active during this time, other city services, including application desks for paying parking fines or applying for permits, for example, will be closed.

Brampton Transit will have a reduced weekday/holiday schedule for various routes throughout the system, running through Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

On Monday, Dec. 31, service on all routes will be free

beginning at 7 p.m., along with extended service on some routes.

For full schedule information, call 905.874.2999 or visit bramptontransit.com.

All Brampton library branches (Chinguacousy Branch in the Civic Centre, Cyril Clark Branch, Four Corners Branch, Gore Meadows Branch, Mount Pleasant Village Branch, South Fletcher's Branch and Springdale Branch) will be closed from Dec. 24 - 26 and 31, and on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

Outdoor ice skating rink openings are weather dependent. Temperatures need to remain below freezing for an extended period in order to make and maintain the ice.

New Year's Eve is one of

four approved days in a year when short-range fireworks are allowed on private property, without the need for a permit.

Short-range fireworks are those that tend to travel less than three metres (10 feet) when set off (e.g. fountains, wheels, ground spinners, sparklers). All other rocket-type fireworks are banned in Brampton.

Fireworks are not allowed to be used on the street, sidewalks, within City parks or on municipal or school properties.

When using short-range fireworks on your property, follow these safety precautions:

- You must have a container of water or a hose line that's filled with water avail-

able to extinguish fireworks

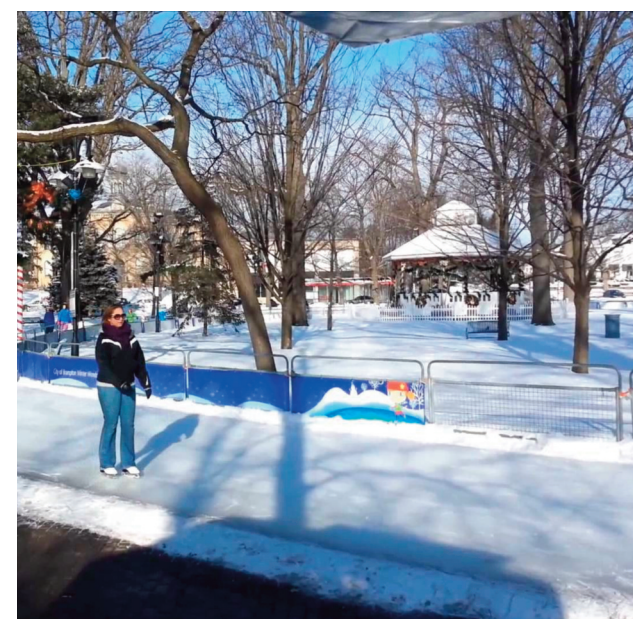
- You must never light a firework or hold a lit firework in your hand, other than a sparkler

- After using sparklers, place them in a container of water to fully cool before disposal

- Allow all fireworks to fully cool before disposal

Mayor Patrick Brown and Members of Council will greet the public during the annual New Year's Levee on Saturday, Jan. 12, at City Hall and Gage Park.

Visitors can enjoy light refreshments and bring their skates to spend the afternoon at the Gage Park skating trail! Free parking is available at City Hall.



Writing my first novel - and racing time

by Vidya Gopaul

I started to write about thirty-six years ago when I was in my undergraduate program at the University of Toronto.

In that program, I took a graduate course because there were not enough students to fill up the class. Therefore, the professor who was teaching that program offered me a place in the class, which was in bioethics.

Since there were only two students, including me, he decided to teach the course in his office rather than in the classroom. It became so personal that we were able to interact very casually with the professor.

During that course, we discussed a variety of issues in the medical fields, including the ethical issues of artificial insemination, test-tube babies, in-vitro fertilization and several other scientific methods of conceiving babies. That led me to the issues of adoption.

Back in those days, the biological parents of babies conceived by scientific methods were kept secret, and so were the biological parents of adopted children.

Therefore, the issue that I was more concerned about was what would happen if multiple couples conceived children by using the same sperm donor. If those siblings did not know who their biological parents were, they could end up marrying each other. The same dilemma could occur with adopted children.

That is why I decided to write a novel about how one sibling can easily marry other sibling; that is, a brother could possibly marry his own sister if they do not know who their biological parents are. Those issues I predicted would manifest back in the 1980s.

Today, believe or not, every month there is an article about a man married or fell in love with his own sister because they were adopted and did not know who their biological parents were.

Recently, there was a case where a set of twins, brother and sister, found out that they had the same mother and father after they were married. Now the law is trying to decide whether to press charges of incest or not.

Then the question arises about whose fault it was: the biological parents, adoptive parents or the married couple themselves? Moreover, there is a television sitcom called *Seed* which is based on the idea written in my novel.

I am a very strong advocate of telling the adopted children about their biological parents from day one,

no matter how difficult or emotional it is.

I am hoping that through my novel, *Race the Time*, I can send the message to the audience at large, to social services and to the government to change the policy that will allow adopted children to know who their biological parents are from

the start.

In addition, I hope I can convey the message that in any romantic relationship I would strongly suggest that the parties involved must find their birth parents before it is too late. Believe it or not, there is a culture out there that very strongly and religiously practice; that is, always get your birth parental consent before marrying anyone.

In addition, while reading through my novel, the reader will be inspired to think about the discussion of other issues such as, genetic diseases, inheritance, and alimony payments, even though they are not discussed in the book.

If the adopted children and the artificially conceived babies do not know who their biological parents are, then how can the doctors cure diseases that are inherited from their biological parents?

What happens when one of those babies finds out their biological parents are very wealthy, such as Bill Gates or Warren Buffet or the Thompson family? Is he or she eligible to inherit their property?

Also, are those children eligible for child support payments? Those are very tough questions to answer legally and morally.

I am planning to write three more novels. One of the novels I have entitled *My Journey Past Heaven's Gate*. In that novel, I will try to discuss what will happen to all of us who come from different religious background when we die and go the next world, which we call heaven.

Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and the Baha'i faith all teach about the afterlife.

What will all prophets - Krishna, Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Christ, Muhammad, Bab and Baha'u'llah - say about the current affairs of the world? They all have great teachings.

But what happens when we die? Will we keep our religion, or will we be one group of families with one religion? Will we recognize each other as we were on Earth?

For more information on the book, visit my website at vidyagopaul.com.



Application process now open for Brampton community grant program

A recurring grant program designed to provide financial support to local community organizations is open once again.

The City of Brampton's 2019 Community Grant program, which offers three funding streams for non-profit organizations and groups within the city, will have its application process running until Jan. 31, 2019.

Funding streams are available for festivals and events, arts/culture programs, capacity building, sport tourism, neighbourhood initiatives and recreation/active living.

Interested applicants can learn more about the program and how to apply by meeting with a Community Grant Coordinator

(by appointment), or by dropping in at an information session. These information sessions will be held at local recreation centres throughout Brampton until Jan. 24, with a full list of locations and times available to view at brampton.ca/communitygrants.

"Brampton's community organizations make a huge contribution to the vibrant cultural life in our city," said Mayor Patrick Brown.

"The Community Grant Program provides direct, tangible support for events and initiatives that residents care about."

The City, in partnership with Work in Culture, will host two

workshops to help local organizations develop their grant-writing skills and learn more about how to secure funding:

- Secrets to Securing Sponsorship with Jason Maghanov (Jan. 7 from 6 - 9 p.m. at Cyril Clark Library - 20 Loafers Lake Lane)

- Grantsmanship 101 with Diane Davy (Jan. 12 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Hall West Tower - 55 George Street South)

Space is limited and registration is required by visiting brampton.ca/communitygrants.

Recommendations for funding approval will be brought to City Council in late February 2019.



Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development (CACD) held its annual year-end celebration last Thursday, bringing the work of the organization's beadcraft class to the Ward 4 community.

The event included a performance by Wes McKenzie and poet/speaker Wali

Shah, keynote speech from Black Community Action Network's Sophia Ramsey and a presentation to the students in the beadcraft class, who proudly presented their works to the 50-plus guests in attendance.

The organization helps at-risk youth between the

ages of 10-25 by providing them with resources, programs and services that are designed to help build character and skills development, leadership, and active citizenship.

For more information on the programs and organization, visit cacdcanada.org. (PWN Staff Photo)

December and the Festive Season

by Elizabeth Banfalvi

What a month! There are so many goings on and everyone is busy decorating trees, their homes and buying gifts.

Nowadays, we need to remember to be more giving but at times we overdo it and stress is all we feel.

In Europe, Dec. 6 is celebrated as St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas is regarded as the patron saint and celebrated with different activities such as gift-giving, parades, feasts and festivals.

On the night of Dec. 6, children throughout Europe put their shoes or a special St.

Nicholas boot in front of the fireplace or the front door at night to find them filled with small presents the next morning. A larger number of gifts are usually brought by the eve of St. Nicholas Day or Dec. 5.

He inspired both the figure of the North American Santa Claus and the British Father Christmas.

St. Nicholas, the legendary figure, is derived from Nicholas of Myra, who officiated as a bishop in 4th century Greece. During his lifetime, he developed a reputation for gift-giving by putting coins in

other people's shoes, which accounts for many of today's Christmas traditions that involve leaving gifts in shoes or boots. St. Nicholas wears a long red robe and head piece like a bishop and has the legendary long white hair and beard.

Most who still believe in this tradition give small gifts at this time and then Christmas is all about filling the stockings and the larger gifts.

Dec. 24 is the advent of the Santa Claus travelling all over the world, sliding down chimneys and placing gifts under

the tree.

Children usually leave him cookies and milk and off to bed they go to wake up very early in the morning to open their many presents. What a treat!

Dec. 25 is the official Christmas Day, and that is when we open presents and eat a wonderful feast of turkey and stuffing and all the glorious treats. This is often a time of church going and honouring our Christian traditions.

One other happening that we don't like to think of is the 'Christmas holiday effect' on mortality, with spikes in deaths from natural causes at or before Christmas.

People who have been sick or incapacitated sometimes succumb at this time. A 2004 study found just under five per cent more deaths over the end-of-year holiday period.

Being a very family-oriented holiday also affects depressed and lonely people who have no family. More fund raisers are done at this time to serve a holiday meal or give gifts for people who can't afford to buy toys and games for younger people.

One company I worked for did a fund raising every year to buy a family (adults and their children) what they needed for the season. They always took

on older children, the ones usually too difficult to buy for.

One year, they raised money for an older teenager who was out on his own for the first time and wanted bedding for himself. He got it, along with gift certificates to use as he wished. He sent us a photo sitting on his bed surrounded by his bedding and new pillows.

If you listen to all the Christmas music being played, this is actually a sad season for people who miss their family or relationships or just going back to a more innocent time.

The greatest song I hear is "I'll Be Home for Christmas", originally recorded in 1943 by Bing Crosby. It was written to honor soldiers overseas who longed to be home at Christmas time and probably couldn't so they would be there in their dreams.

It has since gone on to become a Christmas standard.

The custom of sending Christmas cards was started in the UK in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole. It is still the same but now we have the options of sending a wish or card on the internet.

It is still the most active postal time of the year. Who doesn't get excited by getting a card and opening it up to enjoy the sentiment?

The Christmas tree is such a beautiful tradition and was started in the 1800s. We put it up and decorate it and fill the bottom with gifts. No tree is the same all decorated up.

Every ornament is special and I have one from 1972 when my son was a year old.

Others mean times spent either happy or sad. The ornaments usually mean something.

The Christmas feast is special not because of what is served but who sits at the table. Food is great but the smiles are what make it special. New faces are added and old faces fade away. It is such a wonderful and poignant time in so many ways.

Enjoy your holiday season for what it is and what it represents. It is never the same but incorporate routines and rituals that are special and can be followed throughout the years. The tree topper - what does it mean?

Turning on the lights for the first time that year - why is it so special? See your children open their presents and squeal with excitement. Seeing grandparents celebrate with their grandchildren, the next generation, is so special.

The holiday season - so simple and yet so meaningful.



Brampton Animal Shelter celebrates 12 Days of Christmas

Furry friends throughout the City of Brampton will have more reason to celebrate this holiday season, as a local animal shelter will be hosting a number of initiatives geared at giving back to both animals and the community.

Brampton Animal Shelter is spreading cheer this season with its 12 Days of Christmas event, which runs through Dec. 18.

Residents and their four-legged friends are invited to join the shelter for a number of community events and the opportunity to win cool prizes and visit us for festive activities.

The action kicked off this past weekend with an adoption gift certificate drive and an opportunity for residents to get their pet photos taken with Santa at Dogtopia Brampton.

The excitement continues this week, as the animal shelter kicked off a holiday pet photo contest on their Facebook page.

Residents are invited to submit their best photos with their furry friends for the chance to win a gift basket!

A number of gift initiatives also kick off this week, starting with a donation drive at the Helping Orphaned Pets in Emergencies (HOPE) Fund. Residents who donate to the fund, located in the Brampton Animal Shelter head office at 475 Chrysler Dr., will receive a hand-lettered stocking for their pet or a personalized pet tag.

The Animal Shelter will also be hosting a number of pet-themed sales throughout the weekend, including a handmade pet crafts sale today (Dec. 12), a handmade ornaments sale tomorrow (Dec. 13) and a pet bake sale on Friday (Dec. 15). All sales will run at the Animal Shelter office during normal business hours, from 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Residents are also invited to help the shelter collect

Amazon Wish List items this weekend, along with the Adopt a Stuffed Animal drive next Monday (Dec. 17).

A free Microchip Clinic will be hosted for residents who want to get their pets tagged. Participants must pre-register, as space is limited. Interested residents can register for the clinic by calling (905) 458-5800.

All proceeds from the undraisers will be donated to the HOPE Fund.

"Giving back is an important part of the holidays - that includes giving back to our four-legged friends," said Mayor Patrick Brown last week. "Whether or not you have a pet, participating in the 12 Days is a great way to get involved in our community this holiday season."

For more information on any of the events, visit brampton.ca/animal-services.



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com

Don't Worry About Your Financial Future. With Sell 'n STAY™ You're in Control of Your Options.



As time goes on and the cost of living continues to increase, it is easy to become worried about how to make ends meet.

There are many options that are not pet-friendly. Sell 'n STAY™ not only allows you to keep your furry friends, but to continue to live in the home that both you and your pets are familiar with.

Sell 'n STAY™ which is a sale and lease back program offers a practical and reliable way to help you face an uncertain future with confidence. It can change your life and give you the fresh start you deserve.

Before you consider a reverse mortgage, call me at 647-298-0997 to discuss this great opportunity.





THERESA BAIRD
 Broker
 647.298.0997
 e: tbaird@tbaird.com • tbaird.com



Keller Williams
 Realty Solutions
 #TeamBaird






Up-and-comers take the stage at Celebration Square for New Year's

Some of the country's hottest performers will be descending on Celebration Square on Dec. 31, as Mississauga rings in the New Year with their annual celebrations.

Tens of thousands of fans are expected at the annual event, which kicks off at 8 p.m. with live DJ music performed by Sir Lancelot and DJ Tilt.

A who's who of performers will take the stage beginning at 9 p.m., including Toronto-based hip-hop collective The Sorority, Juno Award winning rapper kos, and "The Launch" winners Elijah Woods x Jamie Fine.

The evening will crest at 11 p.m. with a performance by Mississauga-based R&B up-and-comer Anders, who released his debut EP earlier this year.

A massive fireworks display will close out the night - and ring in 2019 - at midnight.

MiWay will also be offering free transit throughout the evening, starting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 31 and continuing through 4 a.m. on Jan. 1.

For more information, visit miway.ca/holiday-service.



Remembrances pour in for heritage leader

Heritage Mississauga announced last week that Jenny Walker, who served with the organization for the last seven years as its program developer, passed away late last month after a short battle with cancer.

"It is with heavy hearts that the staff and board announce the passing of our valued team member," the organization said in a statement Friday afternoon. "Jenny will be greatly missed by a wide array of friends and colleagues."

A long-time volunteer, Walker lent her time and talents to developing heritage components for many community programs, including the Carassauga Canada Pavilion, Italfest, Bollywood Monster Mashup and Doors Open Mississauga, amongst other events.

She was also one of the driving forces behind Heritage Mississauga's signature awards gala, The Credits.

Born in Sunderland General Hospital, North East England to Leonard and Irene Wright (nee Watson) in 1918, Walker was the younger sister to Neal.

She is survived by husband Neil and children James, Liam, and Alexandra. The family moved to Mississauga in 2006 where Jenny completed her history degree at the University of Toronto.

She then worked as the Program Developer with Heritage Mississauga up until her diagnosis. She had recently moved to Dundas, Ontario.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Care Foundation.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/jenny-walker.



'Twas The Bite Before Christmas Helps the Community



PWN Staff Photos



Get your Peel Weekly News **WEEKLY** subscribe at www.PeelDailyNews.com



DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME

MEATORDERS.COM



WE'VE GOT YOUR MEAT!

QUALITY MEATS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR!

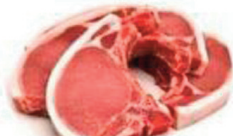
OPTION #1
ONLY \$165



4 LBS CHICKEN BREAST



5.5LBS BULK BACON



5 LBS PORK CHOPS



7 LBS GROUND BEEF



10LBS WHOLE CHICKEN

OPTION #2
ONLY \$174.99



5LBS STEAK



7 LBS GROUND BEEF



4 LBS CHICKEN BREAST



5.5LBS BULK BACON



5LBS BEEF OR PORK ROAST

MEATORDERS.COM

WEEKLY HOT DEALS



\$1.99



**PURCHASE ANY OF THESE ITEMS FOR \$1.99 AND
RECEIVE FREE DELIVERY WITH ORDERS OVER \$100**

 **MEATORDERS.COM**

**FREE \$350 HOME DEPOT
GIFT CARD**



WITH PURCHASE OF A WHOLE COW

 **MEATORDERS.COM**
705-261-3663

2019

NEW YEAR
DECEMBER 31

PERFORMANCES, DJ & DINNER

Bovaird Banquet & Convention Centre
190 Bovaird Drive. W. Unit 24. Brampton

ADULTS	 TABLE OF 10 	KIDS (AGES 5 TO 11)
\$60	\$550	\$40

*Ticket price includes HST

DOORS OPEN: 7:30PM | *CASH BAR | TICKETS 100% NON REFUNDABLE

For Details & Tickets:
647-344-5566, 416-209-0783, 647-707-4381, 416-786-9809
Buy online at www.pgaii.com